

## From the NEMATYC President

I hope the excitement of teaching continues. I have been using some of the information I learned at our 2001 NEMATYC meeting in my Introductory Algebra and Precalculus courses. Maureen Woolhouse and Carol Hay did a tremendous job chairing the conference at Middlesex CC in Lowell. I know how much work is involved in planning a two-day event and I cannot thank Maureen and Carol enough for all they did. They were able to have 29 sessions plus a Friday evening speaker and Saturday luncheon speaker. I also want to acknowledge Middlesex Community College's generosity in helping to defray conference costs. The 2002 conference plans are well under way. Please see the call for presenters. It is crucial that you consider giving a talk. The conference is only as good as the people who are willing to share their teaching techniques. Judy Carter is the chairperson and she will appreciate you contacting her with your ideas. Offers of help will not be refused. Some people have great ideas, but have never presented at a conference. Our conference is a unique opportunity to test the waters.†

I know it is said that the older you are, the faster time goes. This is not one of the Laws of Relativity. But, I am beginning to believe it is true. I still have more than a decade before I will be eligible for retirement. The way time flies, I think it will be here before I am ready for it to happen. Maybe I will never retire from teaching as

I enjoy it too much. One thing is certain : I will be your President for just this year, per the NEMATYC Constitution. So, now the ponderous question: Who will lead our organization next year? Anyone considering this office needs to know that it is a four-year commitment: two as president and two as the past president. The following is information that might help you I making a decision to run for office:

- 1: The Executive Committee has been compiling a policy manual to assist all future executive committee members in knowing what needs to be done and when. That does not mean that new ideas are not welcomed.
- 2: NEMATYC needs to decide whether the organization should seek non-profit status or not. This is very time consuming and possibly expensive process and benefits versus costs will have to be weighed carefully.
- 3: Should student scholarships be created?
- 4: The Executive Committee meets three times a year with a possible extra meeting at the spring conference.

What a president decides to do is partially individual preference. I hope there are some NEMATYC members who would enjoy the challenge and responsibility. I can tell you that it is very rewarding job and you will work with great people. Besides the presidency, there are three other officer positions up for re-election. The vice president is a one year term; the secretary is a two-year term; an at-large member is a two year term. If you have questions about the duties of these positions, please see the NEMATYC

Constitution which is available at our web site [www.bristol.mass.edu/nematyc](http://www.bristol.mass.edu/nematyc) or contact me. To nominate yourself or a colleague, please email members of the nominating committee: John Jacobs, Ted Panitz or Elaine Previte (see the directory).

The program for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual AMATYC Conference in Toronto (November 15 ñ 18) is very extensive and I hope you will have a chance to attend. Remember, you will need either a passport or picture I.D. with a birth certificate. I was in Toronto in August and found that you can get a refund on the taxes. You can claim a refund of goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) if you are an individual and a non-resident of Canada and the total of your eligible purchases, before taxes, exceeds \$200 Cd. This means you can apply to the Canadian government to have the 7% room tax refunded to you! Make sure to get a copy of the Canadian official application. There are many flyers that say this is the form but there are forms from companies that charge you a fee to get the money. If you buy items and want to get the tax refunded, you need to have these items in your carry-on luggage as you need to have the receipts stamped at the airport.

I hope to see you in November in Toronto and in April at our spring conference. Have a great semester.

Roberta Kieronski

NEMATYC President

UNH at Manchester

[robertak@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:robertak@cisunix.unh.edu)

## From the AMATYC Vice President

AMATYC's annual conference will be held at the City Centre Sheraton in Toronto from November 15 ñ 18. It is our region's turn to shine. This conference is jam packed with all kinds of great sessions ñ something, as usual, for everyone.

I hope you will be joining me in Toronto to help Paul and his group host this event. Remember Tuesday evening, November 13. We will be stuffing bags for the registration which begins Wednesday evening. If you can come early to Toronto and help with this process (process as my wonderful Canadian friends say). I would appreciate it. Also, we need help staffing the hospitality suite.

Please remember that on Sunday morning, November 18, our own Phil Mahler will be taking over as AMATYC President ñ a wonderful time for Phil and all of us. Please come to learn, enjoy, and celebrate.

Toronto is truly a wonderful city. The theaters, restaurants, museums, waterfront, etc., are great.

See y'all.

Jack Keating

AMATYC New England Vice President

Massasoit CC, Brocton, MA

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## NEMATYC OFFICER SELECTION

Our constitution provides for staggered elections of officers. This way, new officers are always afforded the help and guidance of working with experienced members and there is continuity of leadership within the Association. This spring, the Association will be electing the following: President (2 year term.) Vice President (1 year term.), Secretary (2 year term.) and Executive Committee At-large Member (2 year term.) Nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee (John Jacobs, Ted Panitz, and Elaine Previte). Nominations can also be made during the business meeting at the spring conference.

## Renew your Membership

If you are unable to attend NEMATYC 2001: A Math Odyssey, you can still renew your membership. This will ensure you will receive the Newsletter and notification of future NEMATYC meetings. Please send your name, preferred mailing address and the \$5.00 membership fee to Lois Martin, NEMATYC Treasurer, 25 Lydon Lane, Kingston, MA 02364

## Honor Our Adjuncts

More and more sections of mathematics at our schools are being taught by adjuncts. Honor them by inviting them to participate in NEMATYC. Make sure they know of us, our commitment to quality mathematics education and how they can share their ideas at our spring conference. Ask your administration to support their efforts by funding their attendance at the conference. They provide a valuable resource to our institutions, they have some great practices and could be more involved. Many simply need to be asked.

## Call for Presenters

NEMATYC 2002: Moving Forward, Looking Backward

April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA

**Presenter(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:**

College or affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (if home address and telephone number are preferred, please list those as well.)

**Time Preference:** Please list a first and second choice.

Friday Afternoon       Saturday Morning

Saturday Afternoon       No Preference

Length of presentation:       50 Minute       100 Minute

**Presentation Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Workshops, short seminars, discussion panels and poster sessions are encouraged.*

You are not limited to this form. Please feel free to submit additional information.

**Questions? Call Judy Carter: 978 ñ 762 ñ 4000**

**SEND PROPOSALS BY DECEMBER 7, 2001**

**Mail to** Judy Carter, NEMATYC 2002 Chairperson, North Shore CC 1 Ferncroft Rd, Danvers MA 01923

FAX 781 ñ 477 ñ 2140 e-mail [jcarter@nscc.mass.edu](mailto:jcarter@nscc.mass.edu)

**FREE AMATYC MEMBERSHIP FOR A STUDENT**

The AMATYC Executive Board, with the support from the AMATYC Foundation, has given NEMATYC a complimentary, one-year AMATYC Associate membership for a full-time graduate student from our affiliate. Association members in AMATYC enjoy the same membership benefits as a regular AMATYC member except for voting privileges. If you know of a worthy candidate, please complete the following information and forward it to Roberta Kieronski, UNH Manchester [robertak@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:robertak@cisunix.unh.edu). Information needed: Name of student and graduate school attending. Name, telephone and e-mail of person making nomination and why you feel the student is worthy of nomination. In case of multiple submissions, a random drawing will be held.

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gets convinced that easily. Instead, my new approach came from the familiar process of being successively labeled: dinosaur, stalwart, skeptic, receptive and finally practitioner. This semester, I chucked the old stand-up lecture for my developmental arithmetic course and am using cooperative learning. It is a new text, a new approach and new classroom dynamics with which to deal. Students are actively engaged in their learning and I know them better because I spend 80% of my time answering questions of individuals or groups and only 20% of my time at the chalk board. Is it working? Well, one day students were coming out of class and had maliciously twisted a text problem around into an absurdity and were laughing. The students had both the confidence and comfort with the problem to make a joke and were laughing while coming out of math class. It made my day.

The real lesson here is the importance of the NEMATYC conferences. It is here that those with ideas get to share them with colleagues receptive to new concepts, new methods of teaching and new approaches to old topics. Got an idea? Share it. Looking for new ideas? NEMATYC spring conference is the place. Attend, share and absorb.

*John Jacobs, Editor*

*Massachusetts Bay Community College*

[jacobsjo@mbcc.mass.edu](mailto:jacobsjo@mbcc.mass.edu)

## CONFERENCE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As this newsletter reaches you, you are probably well into the fall semester. Probably, you are trying something a little (or a lot!) different in your classes. By next spring, you'll know whether your innovations were successful or whether, as occasionally happens they bombed. Why not share your triumphs and even your setbacks with your colleagues at our annual conference, NEMATYC, 2002?

As educators, we are always experimenting with new pedagogical methods and classroom strategies, hoping to improve our students' learning. When I try something new, most often the idea came from a colleague through an informal discussion or from a presentation at a mathematical conference. We are each other's best professional resource.

In this newsletter, you will find a Call for Presenters for NEMATYC 2000. Please consider making a presentation. The topic need not be a major innovation. We are all looking for better classroom management techniques that will motivate our students. We really have a professional obligation to share our experience.

At North Shore Community college, we are busy (perhaps frantic) with planning NEMATYC 2002: Moving Forward, looking Backward. The conference title refers to 2002's being a numerical palindrome as well as to the truth that, as educators, we are always working to improve our teaching as well as reflecting back on what we have done in the past. Please join us on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for collegial sharing and fun!

*Judy Carter*

*NorthShore CC*

*1 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA 01923*

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## Your NEMATYC Executive Committee

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